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Abstract. Methods, systems, and cells are described that can be used to sensitively monitor for retroviral recombination. Using the invention, recombinant proviruses can be detected to provide an evaluation of the risk of creating a replication competent retrovirus (RCR) in vivo. The invention can further be used to improve on existing procedures in the art, including Tat transfer, Gag transfer, and marker rescue and mobilization assays.

